

D-8195

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Section 1, Special Branch

REPORT

Date November 17, 1937

Subject: Anonymous letter containing allegations regarding circumstances of death of Mrs. M.G. Krylov, local Russian resident.
Made by: D.S.I. Lukofiev. Forwarded by: C. Grigoriev

Attached herewith together with a translation I forward an anonymous letter which was delivered to me on 16-11-37. It was posted on the morning of November 13 at Post Office Branch No 18 situated at the corner of Avenue Joffre and Route Cardinal Mercier. The letter contains allegations to the effect that Mrs M.G.KRYLOV, Russian opera singer of repute, who died suddenly on November 11, met her death at the hands of local agents of the "CHEKA".

Enquiries at the Vital Statistics Office, F.H.D., show that Mrs Maria Grigorievna Krylov, Soviet citizen, died at her residence, No 673 Weihaiwei Road, Apt. 28, and that in the death certificate issued by Dr. E. Sostheim (German) the cause of death is stated as "Apoplectic insult (cerebri)". The deceased's remains were cremated on November 13 on instructions of the local Soviet Consular Authorities.

Of the three persons referred to in the letter in question as agents of the "Cheka", V.V.KIARIN is a prominent member of the local branch of the Wladorossy Party which was often denounced by the rightist elements of Russian emigrants as a pro-Soviet organization.

Mrs A. PRIBYTKOFF, a local Russian actress, was also mentioned by the same elements in Shanghai in connection with her alleged pro-Soviet leanings, while Mrs BERSHADSKY who is also popular in local musical circles, did not come to the notice of the Municipal Police in connection with any political activities.

It appears from the correspondence which was published in the local Russian newspapers that shortly prior to her death Mrs Krylov severed her connections with the Russian Opera Company of which Klarin is one of the main organizers. It also

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appears that this was due to a certain dissensions within the company in which Mrs Krylov was involved.

Therefore, it is quite likely that the writer of the anonymous letter was inspired by motives of a personal and/or political spite against Klarin, Pribytkoff and Bershadsky

Although the deceased was a Soviet citizen she was very popular and had many friends in the local White-Russian community. She was not known to take any interest in politics.

She had no relatives in Shanghai.

A. Prokofiev

D.S.I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

Translation from Russian

Mrs M. KRYLOVA DIED.

It is known that at the time of her death her enemies - agents of the G.P.U. and terrorists from the CHEKA in the persons of V.KLARIN, A.PRIBYTKOVA and BERSHADSKAYA were present at her bedside. She had quarrels with these persons, especially with V.KLARIN whom she intended to expose as a terrorist sent to Shanghai from Moscow. The name of V.KLARIN always made Mrs Krylova shudder. Her quarrel in the opera company compelled her to take steps in order to expose Klarin. She met her death at the hands of agents of the CHEKA because she had broken off any relations with agents of the Comintern and the latter were afraid of being exposed.

AN ARTIST. (female)

Mme. Maria Grigorievna Krilova

One of the most beautiful and touching services ever held in the chapel of the International Funeral Directors took place yesterday afternoon when the many friends and admirers of the late Madame Maria Grigorievna Krilova gathered to pay their last respects. The deceased died suddenly at the age of 45 on Thursday at her residence on Weihaiwei Road and her death came as a distinct shock to everyone.

The civic memorial service was in charge of the Soviet authorities. In a hushed silence during which every head was bowed in silent tribute, the Shanghai Municipal Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Paci softly played a funeral dirge, after which Mr. Shushlin, gave a short speech. Above the casket, which was almost completely covered with multi-coloured cut flowers, hung four large wreaths from the Shanghai Municipal Orchestra, Russian Ballet, Soviet Community of Shanghai and Freda and the U.S. Marine Band. Many other flowers were received from friends.

The deceased was for several years singing in the Grand Opera of U.S.S.R. and was professor of voice in the National Conservatory of China here. On the eve of her death she was planning to return to Russia and re-enter opera at the earliest possible time. Shanghai audiences heard her sing for the last time in the light opera at the Canidrome last week. As a mark of respect the opera "Carmen" was postponed until after the funeral. The remains will be cremated and sent to Moscow.



MRS M.G. KRYLOV

